

ÉCOLE LORD TWEEDSMUIR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

MINUTES

Held on Wednesday, January 28, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE:

Stuart, Jen, Krista, Rik, Chelsea, Andrea, Christine, Tu Loan, and multiple parent attendees

REGRETS: Jessica, Holly, Stephanie Musgrove, Marc

CALL TO ORDER (TIME): 7:05 pm

Land Acknowledgement

Approval of January 28, 2025 Agenda: Motion to approve, seconded - Carried.

Approval of November 26, 2025 Minutes: Motion to approve, seconded - Carried.

Reports:

1. Chair Report

- Thank you to Volunteers
- Call out for events in December such as treat day, movie night and bake sale
- Upcoming Fun Lunch and Tweeds Family Dance
- Spun (virtual) wheel to select winner of \$50 Save On Foods Gift card for survey completion

2. Treasurer Report (Stuart in lieu of Jess)

- Current balance \$27,893.35
- Funding to come from Art Card fundraiser in the spring as it is too much to organize in the fall. Must get information to vendor by May 1st at the latest but ideally by end of March
- Read-a-thon will take place after Spring Break. This has been very successful at other schools.
- We received a gaming grant of \$9120.00
- PAC related spend is on track
- Classroom support, field trip utilization is still low but expected to come in towards the end of the year
- One Bursary has been claimed and we are now keeping track
- When Tu Loan was asked what the school wants/needs the hope is to be able to partake in the "Stream of Dreams". We applied in the fall but were denied but hopeful to apply again in the spring. This would have equated to \$2 per child and without the grant the cost is \$15 per child. The program allows the children to learn about salmon, the local environment and then each student gets to paint a salmon that will be hung on the fence. The grant is from the Pacific Salmon Foundation
 - Tu Loan shared that the school is always in need of school equipment
 - Tu Loan requested an extra \$100-150 for grade 4 & 5 classes for field trips as the class sizes are larger and they have the same budget (\$500) as the Divisions who have smaller class sizes.

- **Motion was made for a one time request of \$150 for offsite field trips for intermediate classes. Requests must be made by June 1st. Motion seconded. Approved.**

3. DPAC Update - Krista

- Discussed active transportation plan
- Parents were able to provide feedback to consultants. Feedback can be provided to the city.
- Super Intendent and Board update was provided
- The budget survey will come out in February - think of it as priorities as funds are limited.
- Long range facilities plan. DPAC is pushing for more consultation.
- Site intensification. Developing on pre-existing sites.
- 5 block model in high school is having challenges
 - Middle school changes hope to help with the challenges with eventual grade distribution of grades K-6 (elementary school), grades 7-9 (middle school), grades 10-12 (high school).
 - Will implement as space becomes available. Possibly change to this model when Simcoe is built but not clear.
- Lord Tweedsmuir will be one of three schools which will be provided the option to have children in Grade 6 in the english program remain at the current elementary school or go to middle school
 - DPAC Treasurer is putting together a Q&A for parents and Krista will share out once complete
 - Survey will go out to families from February 3rd - 23rd but families will have until April 1st to change their minds
 - Changes to EFI programs at Herbert Spencer and Qayqayt
- DPAC sent two correspondents about "Lunch Lady" and they have heard a lot of negative feedback
- DPAC sent a letter to the Province about portables.
- DPAC generated a letter template to request funding for Queensborough bus program
- DPAC meetings are the 3rd Thursday of every month

5. PAC Event - Tweeds Dance - Anita

- The dance will be called the "Tweedsmuir Twist"
- Gym capacity is 1000 (no chairs) in the gym
- Current ticket sales at 44 (Eventbrite - fee registration to track attendees for concession purposes)
- Aiming to sell 200 tickets
- Possible campaign for door prizes
- Painted mural
- Glow wands for purchase
- List of concession items discussed
- Call out for volunteers
- Current cost will be \$400-500
- Budget is approved

6. Principal Update: Tu Loan

- Student enrollment: 5 new students in last 2 weeks
- Literacy goal: teachers have bought in and embraced the program. The whole school is on the same page
 - Literacy specialist joined the school for two days to provide support
 - Collaboration day with Howie Elementary school as they are also implementing this program
 - Will see how it will show up in students writing
 - Prince George is in their second year and they are seeing confidence in the students and successful results
- Filming a new show and having broadcasters twice a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
 - Provides public speaking opportunities for the students
- Pink shirt day assembly in February
- District ball hockey tournament for Grade 5's coming up in March at Fraser River
- Track & Field program will take place again this year for Grade 4 & 5 students
- Ms. Nicholl is planning a Spring Showcase
 - Intermediate will perform during the day and primary will perform in the evening

7. School Trustee Update

- Marc was unable to attend the meeting but provided answers to questions that were sent to him via email. Questions posed during the meeting and Marc's answers provided via email are below:
 1. ***The grade 6 option to stay at elementary school, can more clarity be given here for the permutations? What if only a small number opt to go, how will elementary schools handle the extra? And the opposite, if a large number go, will the elementary really run g6 for 10 students for example?***
 1. *Even if only a few students go, the district is still committed to this action. Any pressure that we can take off middle school numbers will be vital as we wait for Simcoe Elementary to open and continue to advocate to the province for a new middle school. Lord Tweedsmuir's unique grade configurations of having a split at every grade level allows for this flexibility. We are still examining whether this configuration will become permanent in future years at Tweeds, Connaught, and Howay. There will be a lot of attention paid to students who stayed behind to ensure they are well integrated as Grade Sevens the following year at middle school, including a more thorough articulation process and middle school "community events" that connect them with former classmates.*
 2. *More in-depth questions and answers can be found here, and will continue to be updated for families:*
<https://newwestschools.ca/blog/2026/02/02/grade-6-transition-questions-and-answers/>
- 2. ***Can you provide more details on seamless day care and grade configuration?***
 1. *Funding for seamless day was discontinued by the province, which amounted to \$110,000. This made continuation of the program unsustainable, despite our acknowledging how good this program was for students and families. In short, we cannot afford to fund ECEs within the kindergarten classroom. We are happy to*

be able to report that one of the district partner childcare providers will be able to expand their before and afterschool services at Qayqayt, ensuring that every child who is currently in the Seamless Program will be offered a placement in this expanded before and after school care.

- 2. Grade configurations are something the board is continuing to explore. We have sent out a survey to get input from families on our long-range facilities plan, which will be refreshed this year. This consultation is crucial to the board's decision-making process, and will help inform the pace at which a K-6, 7-9, and 10-12 transition occurs. The configuration is heavily dependent on the space availability and balance between elementary, middle, and secondary schools, and won't roll out district-wide all at once.*

3. Any other board updates?

- 1. The board is happy to announce that the new Queen Elizabeth Elementary site will include a Neighborhood Learning Center, meant to be similar in function to the Welcome Center at the high school. The district is exploring partnerships and services that will be located in this facility, which will significantly improve access for families and students in Queensborough.*
- 2. Strongstart is being consolidated from Connaught Heights to Skwo:wech.*
- 3. Most of the work of the board at this time is focused on the big changes to enrolment and seamless day, and the refresh of the long-term facilities plan.*

New business:

1. BCTF form that can be filled out for survey to stand with teachers during the bargaining process

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm

Next Meeting: April 22, 2026